

REMARKS**Elections/Restriction**

Withdrawn claims 12-18 have been cancelled. Claims 19-21 are drawn to a method of use of the flexible mold of claim 1. The Applicant submits that upon the allowance of the flexible mold article of claim 1, any use of such mold, including the use claimed in claims 19-21 would also be patentable. Hence, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction of Claims 19-21 upon the allowance of claim 1.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Audsley (US 4929403).

The Examiner stated that, “With regard to claim 1, Audsley teaches a flexible mold supported by a *non woven web of plastic* . . .

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly recite that the support of the flexible mold of the present invention is a “flexible plastic film”.

The Examiner further stated that, “Although Audsley does not explicitly state a glass transition temperature, the materials of Audsley would inherently possess a glass transition temperature of no greater than zero degrees.”

The Applicant submits that whether the compositions of Audsley would “inherently” possess a glass transition temperature of no greater than zero degree depends on the glass transition of the urethane acrylate oligomer, the wt-% percentage of such oligomer, as well as the glass transition temperature(s) and wt-% of all the other components. With reference to p. 18 of the present patent application, urethane acrylate oligomers can have a glass transition temperature (T_g) greater than zero (e.g. urethane acrylate oligomer A has a T_g of 15°C). Particularly when the urethane acrylate oligomer has a T_g greater than zero, the resulting cured mixture of urethane

acrylate oligomer and (meth)acryl monomer can also has a Tg greater than zero. (See UV-curable compositions 1-3 on p. 22 of the present patent application.)

Col 5, lines 36-60 describes three different acrylate capped polyester urethane oligomers. Audsley fails to describe the Tg of any of these oligomers, nor the Tg of any of the other components. The Applicant submits that in the absence of any secondary references teaching the Tg of these various components of Audsley, there is no reasonable basis to conclude that the cured resin would inherently have a glass transition temperature of no greater than 0°C.

§ 103 Rejections

If one were to combine Audsley and Kikuchi, the shape imparting material would comprise an oligomer, a reactive diluent (such as a monomer) and 25 to 70 percent of a plasticizer. (See col 8 of Audsley, lines 30-46). The inclusion of the plasticizer allows the cured molding composition of Audsley to be easily removed from the mold and from castings made using the mold. Note as described at column 3, lines 1-7, the molds are intended to mold media such as was plastic, fusible alloys, ceramic clays, and plaster. Hence, the inclusion of substantial amounts of plasticizer would hinder the bond strength between a plastic film support and the shape-imparting layer. This would cause the plastic film support to separate from the shape imparting layer during use of the mold.

For this reason, the present invention cannot be arrived upon by combining the teachings of Audsley and Kikuchi.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

By: _____ /Carolyn A. Fischer/
Carolyn A. Fischer, Reg. No.: 39,091
Telephone No.: 651-575-3915